WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for reserving resources in a packet
communication network, preferably an IP protocol network,
this network being a hybrid network comprising both active
nodes and passive nodes, the active nodes alone being
capable of taking into account so-called active packets,
that is to say those containing information related to a
corresponding execution environment of these active nodes,
an active data flow being a set of active packets having
to be taken into account by one and the same execution
environment, the said method comprising the steps of:
    a)   sending on the network of a reservation packet
containing a request for reservation of resources
constituting an execution environment for an associated
active data flow;
    b)   receiving of the said reservation packet by an
active node of the network; and
    c)   reservation of resources of the node according
to the said request,
    the said method being characterised in that the said
reservation packet is an active packet.

2.   The method of Claim 1, characterised in that the
said reservation packet is in the RSVP protocol format.

3.   The method of Claim 1, characterised in that the
said reservation packet is of the PATH type of the RSVP
protocol.

4.   The method of one of the preceding claims,
characterised in that the reservation packet comprises an
identifier of the said active data flow.

5. The method of one of Claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the said reservation packet is provided for containing parameters for processing data contained in the said associated active data flow, this processing being a code executable by an active node of the network, and in that, in the case of these processing parameters being present, the step b) is followed by:

b1) a step of loading by the said active node of the said corresponding executable code; and

b2) a step of execution of the said code by the said active node.

6. The method of Claim 5, characterised in that the said processing parameters constitute the said code executable by the said active node .

7. The method of Claim 5, characterised in that the said processing parameters identify a server and a code downloadable by the said node from the said server.

8. The method of Claim 5, characterised in that it comprises, after the step b1), a step of:

b3) sending on the network by the said node of a confirmation of loading of the said executable code.

9. An active packet communication network node, in particular an IP active router, for implementing the method according to one of Claims 1 to 8, characterised in that it is provided for detecting if a received active packet is a reservation packet and for reserving corresponding resources for processing the data of an active data flow according to a resource reservation request for the said active data flow and contained in the said active reservation packet.